

Appl. No. : 10/780,780
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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. - 19. (Canceled)

20. (New)

A locking mechanism for removably securing a sewer grate having a plurality of spaced grate bars to an associated frame comprising:

a mounting member having a first portion and a second portion, said first portion connected to said frame;

a grate hold down member, said hold down member completely encircling at least one of said grate bars of said sewer grate, said hold down member once associated with said grate being permanently coupled thereto; and

at least one fastener extending through a portion of said hold down member and into engagement with said second portion of said mounting member, whereby said grate is connected to said frame via connection of said hold down member to said mounting member.

21. (New)

The locking mechanism in accordance with Claim 20 wherein said hold down member comprises a plate which is located below said grate and at least one three-sided channel member which extends upwardly from said plate, over a top portion of said at least one grate bar and downwardly back to said plate.

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22. (New)

The locking mechanism in accordance with Claim 21 wherein said channel member is welded to said plate when said grate is removed from its frame.

23. (New)

The locking mechanism in accordance with Claim 21 wherein said at least one fastener extends through an aperture in said plate, such that a head portion of said fastener is located below a top of said grate.

24. (New)

The locking mechanism in accordance with Claim 20 wherein said at least one fastener is threaded and engages mating threads associated with said mounting member.

25. (New)

The locking mechanism in accordance with Claim 20 wherein said mounting member comprises a generally "L"-shaped angle member.

26. (New)

The locking mechanism in accordance with Claim 20 wherein said at least one fastener comprises a head having a cylindrical side surface, an end surface, and cavity extending from said end surface parallel to the cylindrical surface, said cavity comprising a plural number of internal wrench-

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turning flats, and an obstruction extending with the cavity space, whereby the fastener can be turned only by a wrench having external flats mated to the internal flats and depression mated to the obstruction.

27. (New)

The locking mechanism in accordance with Claim 20 wherein said grate hold down member has first and second portions which completely encircle two different grate bars.

28. (New)

The locking mechanism in accordance with Claim 20 wherein said fastener is positioned in an open space between two of said grate bars of said grate.